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W A R T I M E E X T E N S I O N W O R K

SUMMARY OF EXTENSION WORK, TECHNIQUES, AND RESULTS BASED ON STATE REPORTS

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Local cooperation and organization to meet farm labor and other wartime farm problems high-light recent reports from State Extension Services.

CONNECTICUT
April 7, 1943

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Farm labor.-- Fairly clear picture of farm labor needs, as they were in February, emerging from tabulation of returns in farm sign-up conducted by ACP community committeemen. First 6,800 returns tabulated made requests for 1,337 full-time regular farm workers. Victory Farm Volunteers recruitment campaign being discussed at series of meetings which will bring together all superintendents and high school principals throughout State. State Department of Education listing names of boys who will volunteer for farm work. Program already discussed with all private preparatory school headmasters. Women's Land Army training course to be continued by university.

State War Council.-- General Assembly enacted legislation eliminating State Defense Council, establishing in its place War Council of 43 lay members appointed by Governor. Representative of agriculture on War Council is chairman of Associate Agricultural War Council of 23 members which will have primary responsibility for State's agricultural program. Extension director named "director" of Associate Council's program; vice director, State club leader, and State home demonstration agent named members. Associate Council will develop program through subcommittees on farm labor, war gardens, food preservation, production of various crops, farm machinery, supplies and buildings. Labor subcommittee already named with extension farm-management specialist as chairman. Director attends meetings of subcommittees and presents complete report of extension war program, with suggestions for integrating extension activities with those of other State and Federal agencies in agricultural war effort.

Victory Gardens.-- War garden committees now organized in all larger towns and many rural towns. Two extension specialists assigned to war gardens are booked continuously through week for lectures to gardeners and meetings with committees. Edition of war garden bulletin (80,000) nearly exhausted; reprint planned. Community and factory gardens organized in number of towns.

Food preservation.-- Two-day school on canning, freezing, dehydrating, and storing of vegetables and fruits held at university, attended by home demonstration agents, home economics teachers in high schools, and home economists of public utility companies. Two refresher courses organized for women with previous experience or training in food preservation. University school of home economics planning short courses for women who will conduct community canning centers. Food preservation bulletin being printed.

Protein feed.- Extension dairymen completed series of meetings with local grain dealers on protein feed supply and reduction of protein content of mixed feeds.

KANSAS
April 10, 1943

Farm labor.- Much work done on preliminary plans for enrollment and utilization of nonfarm youth on farms this summer. Tentative plan of procedure set up to be used in interesting city boys and girls in farm work, and in properly placing them on farms and safeguarding their interests.

Farm records and accounts.- Double-barreled campaign launched for training Kansas farmers to keep better farm records and prepare income tax returns. Training schools in all counties to train county agents, home demonstration agents, and office assistants in summarizing farm account books. Over 100 demonstration and training meetings held for farmers completing 1942 Farm Account Book. Instruction given in completing records, summarizing books, and using information in plans for 1943; 35 other public meetings held on keeping farm records and filing income tax returns. Through county agents, 30,000 copies of "Instructions and Forms for Preparing Federal Income Tax Return" distributed to farmers.

Feed for livestock.- Continued emphasis on increasing feed crop yields. Five leader training meetings held, attended by 160 leaders; 53 community meetings attended by total of 1,934. Meetings of farmers devoted to recommendations on seedbed preparation, choice of variety, rate and date of planting feed crop. Use of practices to attain maximum production urged. County agents assisted in locating available seed; thousands of bushels purchased in areas where crop matured and taken to counties where early frosts killed sorghums.

Early sheep shearing solves war problem.- With many sheep shearers in service and manufacture of sheep-shearing machines and equipment curtailed, job of harvesting 1943 wool clip is serious problem. To meet situation, steps taken to lengthen shearing season and organize county shearing circuits to start 6 weeks earlier than usual. Program has increased efficiency in use of limited number shearers and equipment, and April 1 found shearing job well past half-way mark. Program recommended only on farms with shed and barn protection for newly shorn sheep. Flock owners report excellent results for ewes with lambs and for feeder lambs. Kansas wool clip valued at many millions of dollars.

Dairying.- Production program furthered through pamphlet, "Kansas Dairy Production To Meet Wartime Needs"; 25,000 copies distributed through county agents and 35,000 through creameries. Community meetings held to urge addition of one or two head to smaller herds; use of labor-saving devices to cut down labor requirements; planning of chores to reduce distance traveled; use of motorized hay bucks; growing of protein feed on individual farms.

Oil crops.- Series of 113 community meetings on oil crop production attended by 2,994, to discuss need for oil crops (soybeans, flax, castor beans) in war effort, their uses, and State and county acreage goals of such crops. Information given on land preparation, methods of cultivation, etc.

Planning.- Meetings held throughout State on land use planning by type of farming area. State land use planning committee then held meeting in which results of district meetings were used as basis for recommended program for State.

4-H Clubs.- Ten conferences on 4-H Club work planned for agents and leaders during April to assist them in making 4-H program contribute fully to war effort.

NEW YORK

April 1, 1943

Farm labor.- Most counties where canning crops are important have plans for campaigns to mobilize labor for farmers and canners. Many clerks, storekeepers, bankers, school teachers, and others have had some experience and are willing to help on part-time or seasonal basis. House-to-house canvasses being conducted through local war councils. Newspapers and radio also used. Necessary transportation planned. Households that can furnish no labor are solicited to care for children of workers, supplementing nurseries established by YWCA, churches, Red Cross, and schools. In dairy and general farming areas needing semi-skilled or experienced labor, campaign will be handled somewhat differently.

State Food Commission.- State Food Commission appointed to promote food production and assure coordination of State's food supplies. Director of Extension is member. Immediate problems include mobilization of dairy and poultry feed supplies, transportation, supplies for Victory Gardens, farm labor, and production of cheese for lend-lease.

Victory Gardens.- New note in organization is setting up of city Victory Garden Councils. In county program development, county coordinators have worked out cooperative arrangement with high school agricultural teachers as leaders in survey of number of gardens to be grown and people who want plants and leaflets.

Food preservation.- County and city Victory Garden councils setting up food preservation committees that include all food preservation interests. Information prepared on each method of preservation. Home canners advised to use available pressure cookers and share them with neighbors. Extension cooperated with State department of education in preparing course on food production, conservation, and processing for rural families. Home demonstration agents helping to train teachers throughout State to teach course.

Nutrition.- At request of Office of War Nutrition Services, two extension staff members are completing nutrition course for families of workers in industry.

Farm machinery.- Working on spring phase of farm machinery program. Tractor tune-up meetings to be held, followed by plow adjustment demonstrations in field. Farmers assisted in constructing buck rakes.

Dairy feed.- Extension advising farmers by letter, press, and radio to buy feed this spring to help insure needed production of milk and relieve pressure on supplies and transportation facilities in fall. Feed industry has taken steps to conserve protein feeds. Both distributors and farmers urged to mix

no feed with more than 18 percent total protein and to use lower percentage feeds where legume hay can be had. Encouragement also given to raising ample supplies hay and silage and as much home-grown grain as possible.

Health.- Assisting Civilian Mobilization and State Nursing Council in campaign to enroll retired or inactive nurses in villages under 2,500 in rural areas.

Fire prevention.- 4-H Clubs' effective fire prevention activities will be supported by fire insurance companies, which will offer war bonds as prizes. Program being worked out for use of temperature testers for hay mows so that farmers may take precautions to prevent spontaneous combustion.

TEXAS

April 1, 1943

Victory Gardens.- Thousands of Victory gardeners already picking vegetables. Growing conditions favorable. Extension and other agencies conducting educational work in succession plantings, planting of warm-season vegetables, and insect and disease control. Seedsmen cooperated by carrying seed of adapted varieties, fertilizers, insecticides, and other gardening aids. Victory Gardens planted this year on largest scale in Texas history.

Cotton.- Production of quality cotton for wartime uses emphasized in conferences and meetings, by radio and press. Progress most gratifying. All available Texas seed of approved varieties will be planted, and thousands of bushels of certified seed of recommended varieties have been shipped in from other States.

Farm machinery and equipment.- Agricultural agents assisting farmers in running terrace lines. Several farmers have built terracing machinery because of inability to purchase it. Many requests received for blueprints for home-made equipment, especially for poultry and livestock. Home demonstration agents in three counties demonstrating repair of home equipment, such as electric appliances and plumbing. Groups of county agents conducting demonstrations on building small dehydrators for fruits and vegetables. Plans prepared by extension engineer for construction of rabbit hutches.

Crop program.- Group meetings held with county agents to discuss crop program. Talks given over radio on hybrid corn, and use of fertilizers under wartime conditions. Press stories released, along with information on peanut situation, cottonseed treatment, and legume seed inoculation. "Steps in Growing and Harvesting Peanuts" and "Steps in Growing Cowpeas" revised for reprinting.

Poultry and eggs.- Work on grading eggs has inspired producers to sell improved quality eggs during coming season. Extension agents in 15 counties conducting preliminary demonstrations; special grading demonstrations will follow. Definite plans being made for marketing quality eggs.

Cattle grub control.- Successful cattle grub control campaign conducted in major livestock producing areas. Many county agents have done outstanding control work with members of boys' 4-H Clubs.

Nutrition institute.- Four-day regional nutrition institute held in Harrison County. Representatives of Extension, National Defense Committee, OPA, National Livestock and Meat Board, took part. Attendance estimated at 2,000.

Negro extension activities.- Special effort made to reach all Negro boys of 4-H Club age to decide on some type of demonstration for each to produce more food. Total of 3,859 boys in 16 counties enrolled by 539 local leaders. Demonstrations selected include corn, gardens, poultry, swine, peanuts, cotton, dairy cattle, beef cattle, and various feed crops. Several club boys obtained loans to conduct demonstrations. Many club members pledged themselves to grow enough food or its equivalent to feed one fighter from their county, and themselves. Club leaders in 16 counties helped Negro extension agents at 76 4-H Club meetings. In Caldwell County, 115 members will grow Victory gardens, 63 will raise poultry, 219 will collect scrap metal. In Walker County, 16 Negro club boys bought bred gilts and registered males and agreed to follow extension principles in swine management.

VIRGINIA

April 1, 1943

Farm labor.- County boards of agriculture discussed home food supply and sources of farm labor. County labor committees formed in more than 80 percent of counties. Community meetings held to discuss home food supply and labor situation. County agents aware of responsibilities labor situation places upon them.

Organization.- County agents, administrators, and specialists held district meetings to discuss extension jobs for 1943 and county programs for carrying jobs through. County boards of agriculture and neighborhood leader system now primary instruments in extension work. Active boards functioning in more than 90 percent of counties.

Neighborhood leaders.- System constantly expanding through addition of more leaders. Two thousand added in last few weeks make total about 16,000. Negro farm families well represented in meetings, demonstrations, and general publicity. Emphasis on cooperative efforts in meeting transportation shortages, repair of machinery and equipment, home food and feed production, soil conservation and improvement, organizing to help meet labor problems, and combating black market operations.

Victory Farm Home Food Supply.- During 2 weeks in March, Extension Division concentrated on Victory Home Food Supply campaign among State's 200,000 farmers. Campaign explained at meetings of county boards of agriculture in all counties. Neighborhood leaders distributed pledge cards to all farm and semi-farm families for production of home needs in pork, milk, poultry, and garden products. Farmers to return cards to county farm and home agents, indicating need for information on four types of food mentioned. Those who pledge will be given emblem for home display. Reports indicate excellent response.

Food Conservation.- Representatives all agencies interested in food conservation attended State-wide meeting. Federal and State agencies, private businesses, farm journals, press and radio represented. Emphasis placed on dehydration and storage. Plans made for 20 district meetings over State to give all professional workers in counties latest information.

Dehydration demonstrations to be given in five cities for Civilian Defense food and nutrition committees. County workers will give demonstrations during season to farm women.

Victory Gardens.- Interest in Victory Gardens, rural and urban, indicated by fact that State's two largest seedsmen have virtually closed doors to catch up with orders. One horticulturist spending entire time in field cooperating with garden clubs and Civilian Defense in instructing urban groups. In two months garden specialists held more than 80 meeting; over 5,000 attended. Material prepared for urban gardeners printed in large quantities by city organizations.

4-H Clubs.- Results of Mobilization Program still incomplete. All clubs contributing to ambulance fund, collecting and selling old phonograph records to raise money. Returns indicate Virginia 4-H Clubs will raise ample funds to buy and equip ambulance for Red Cross. Victory pig projects spreading rapidly over State and at least a dozen Victory pig sales planned. Production Credit cooperating fully with Extension in promoting projects and sales and providing war bonds and stamps as prizes and payment at sales.

Crops and Fertilizer.- Fertilizer recommendations under WPB rulings as applied to Virginia crops made available to all professional workers in State. Ten counties held meetings of extension workers, fertilizer salesmen, and dealers for discussion of Production Order No. 5. Home production of feed needs given State-wide stress. Farmers being supplied with latest information on production of soybeans and peanuts for oil. Use of hybrid corn to increase yields given publicity.

Livestock.- Victory pig projects and quality meat production programs conducted. Cattle grub and nodular worm control well publicized. Arrangements made for five sheep-shearing schools to teach the inexperienced.

WYOMING

April 1, 1943

Farm labor.- Full-time labor administrator employed to assist agents in organizing and training all available labor within counties. Series of district meetings for agents and others planned to study methods of training inexperienced workers. County agents' offices in counties not having USES office designated as employment centers to receive and transmit to USES requests for full-time farm laborers. Agents in range sheep counties helping sheepmen to get lambing hands.

Meat.- Extension representatives took part in four regional meetings to consider with county War Boards the licensing of butchers, packers, and farmer meat sellers; also meat-rationing problems. Share-the-meat demonstrations continuing in all home demonstration counties and many other counties.

Cattle grub control.- Stockmen interested in treating cattle for grubs. Growers in 6 big range sections of State took concerted action to treat cattle by application of cube sulfur solution with power sprayer. Agents taking important part in organizing groups, giving demonstrations, and helping groups to purchase and use power sprayers.

Rationing.- Nutrition specialist and county home demonstration agent in Laramie County trained volunteer leaders in point-rationing education campaign. Leaders, in turn, held schools for training other leaders. Home demonstration agents trained neighborhood leaders and assisted OCD in training leaders for point rationing and share-the-meat campaigns.

Tax returns.- Making income tax returns easier was aim of many open meetings conducted throughout State by home management specialist. New Ranch and Home Account Book, worked out in cooperation with Internal Revenue, basis of discussions.

Food and nutrition.- Red Cross nutrition classes taught by home demonstration agents in four counties. Joint efforts of livestock, nutrition, poultry, and horticulture specialists made possible up-to-the-minute revision of bulletin, "Wartime Family Food Supply Plan for Wyoming." Radio broadcast on family food supply and garden roll call presented.

Conservation.- Streamlined mending methods to save clothes and time being presented in every county.

